

Application No.: 10/821,710

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-43 (Canceled)

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:  
a first ribonucleotide (RNA) sequence wherein said first RNA sequence is ~~greater than 20-~~  
~~100~~ 20-30 nucleotides in length, and wherein said first RNA sequence is identical to a sequence  
complementary to a region of a target gene, and  
a second RNA sequence wherein said second RNA sequence is complementary to said first  
RNA sequence,  
wherein said nucleic acid molecule is capable of post-transcriptionally repressing, delaying  
or otherwise reducing expression of the target gene in a mammalian cell when the nucleic acid  
molecule is introduced into said mammalian cell wherein the expression of the target gene is  
reduced by sequence-specific degradation of a RNA transcript of the target gene by an endogenous  
system of the mammalian cell.

Claims 45-46 (Canceled)

Claim 47 (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 44, wherein  
said first and second RNA sequences consist essentially of ribonucleotides.

Claim 48 (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 44, wherein  
at least one of said first and second RNA sequences is comprised at least partially of ribonucleotide  
analogues.

Claim 49-55 (Canceled)

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Claim 56 (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 44, 47 and 48 [49-55], wherein said first RNA sequence is about the same length as said second RNA sequence.

Claim 57 (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 44, 47 and 48 [49-55], wherein said first RNA sequence is the same length as the second RNA sequence.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 44, wherein the first and second RNA sequences are in the same nucleic acid strand.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 58, wherein the first and second RNA sequences are separated by a nucleic acid stuffer sequence.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 44, wherein the first and second RNA sequences are in separate nucleic acid strands.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 44, wherein the first RNA sequence is identical to said sequence complementary to said region of said target gene and exactly complementary to said second RNA sequence.

Claim 62-76 (Canceled)

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